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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION OF )  
Yanping Qiu and Lawrence E. Renck )  
SERIAL NO.: 09/683,356 ) Group Art Unit: 3728  
FILED: December 18, 2001 ) Examiner: Jerrold Johnson  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTINTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

A Final Office Action for this case was mailed April 2, 2004 and an Amendment After Final Office Action was submitted May 11, 2004. An Advisory Action was mailed June 29, 2004 and a Second Amendment After Final Office Action was submitted July 12, 2004. A Supplemental IDS was then filed October 6, 2004.

On August 15, 2005 applicants' attorney received a phone call from Examiner Jerrold Johnson who stated that the application needed to be reexamined in light of the prior art disclosed in the Supplemental IDS and invited the applicant to file a RCE if desired.

In addition to the accompanying RCE, applicants submit this preliminary amendment.